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## **SOUNDWALK #2**

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Cal Fish

2016

"Soundwalk #2" was arranged for the Geographies of Sound 2016 course at Bard College

"developed in collaboration with Prof. Natalia Fedorova at Smolny College of Liberal

Arts and Sciences St Petersburg State University (St. Petersburg), Professor Emilio

Distretti at Al-Quds Bard College of Arts & Science (Palestine), and Professors Maria

Sonevytsky and Olga Touloumi at Bard College (Annandale-on-Hudson, NY).

There is an accompanying recording or Simultaneous Poem which is a collaboration of 6 recordings.

A recording of a Pizza Restaurant on Broadway in Bushwick Brooklyn on March 21st 2016, Starting in a Pizza Restaurant where a Donald Trump rally played loudly on a TV. The volume on the tv was turned up during the recording, we walk out, and street traffic can be heard.

A recording of a Anti-Fracking/Bernie Sanders Rally in Kingston NY on April 4th, 2016, starts with a the cheering synchrony and crowd noise that could be heard at a sporting event, then a spokesman and then virtual guest gives testimony.

A recording of a radio broadcast of a baseball game, Orioles vs. Yankees, on March 18th, 2016

A recording of a walk at Bard College, around 5:45 AM ,on April 15th, 2016, where Birds and Footseps can be heard.

A recording from the street in Bushwick Brooklyn on a morning in February 2015.

Walk to a shopping center or mall,



### Noise Exists: Personally, on a spectrum of familiarity, examination, and mental and physical tolerance.

Noise Exists Personally, diffusing around Earth through a new human-centric kaleidoscope.

"When the world was quieter and sonic incursions fewer, privacy was effectively secured by walls...and vegetation. When physical and acoustic space were more congruent the latter required no special attention."

Imagine when our walls of vegetation functioned not to block unwanted sounds, but as sounding extensions of the landscape.

You're leaning into the sound, crickets and moving leaves can be allowed to grow louder. Many condemn the term soundscape, and prefer to consider the sounds we experience as part of the landscape. However, the sounds we experience in most societies seem to be very much divorced from physical process and features of a landscape

#### Technologies forgo physicalities

"Like a landscape, a soundscape is simultaneously a physical environment and a way of perceiving that environment; it is both a world and a culture constructed to make sense of that world"

-Emily Thompson

IT, is a physical thing, energy dispersion, but also a mentally oriented map of sound making and listening strategies which interpret and inform that energy dispersion, as well as the conditions determining whose voice is "loudest" or "who gets to hear what."



"...drowned out by the technological crescendo of the modern city" -Emily Thompson

### What does it mean to say that "physical and acoustic space were more congruent"?

Well.

Loud Sounds which once could be attributed to observed physical events and processes are now experienced with similar volume and a shrunken and often invisible physical scale.

Our technologies collapse and shrink the physical processes that produce the sounds we hear.

Our technological scale shift warps our sonic perspective.

Thompson writes that "sound was gradually dissociated from space until the relationship ceased to exist"!

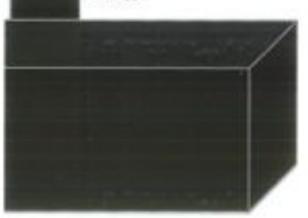
Microscopic physical events inside cell phones and programmed chips lend us sonic events which are Ilfe size!

Life Size Sounds from a tiny and increasingly complex computer biology

The Mimicry! The Trickery! / . . !
the superimpostition of any sound onto any situation is no longer surprising.

"The Present moment has been deleted.

Any sound can be you." -Paul D. Miller

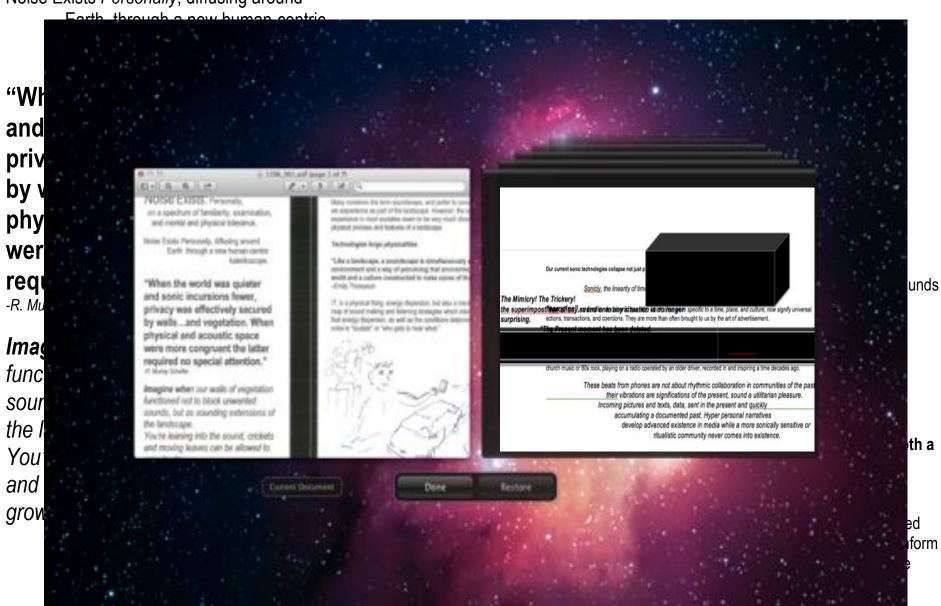




## Noise Exists: Personally,

on a spectrum of familiarity, examination, and mental and physical tolerance.

Noise Exists Personally, diffusing around



Where do "walls of vegetation" still stand?

Learn in and Listen

for a dialog which knows no known language of letters

### Where do "walls of vegetation" still stand?

#### Walk to a wall of vegetation,

Lean in and Listen

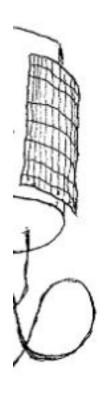
and try and mentally map a hierarchy of sound,

Walk to a wall of concrete and mentally map hierarchy of sound,

What sounds are combining or cancelling?

What processes dominate the attention of your ears?

Depict these maps next to each other on a piece of paper and compare them.



for a dialog which knows no known language of letters

...drowned out by the technological crescendo of the 'ern city" - Emily Thompson

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at does it mean to say that "physical and ustic space were more co

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d Sounds which once could be a Soft coercion, the city, and the recorded female voice 23

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Microscopic phy:

Life Size Sounds biology

anomalous sounds of animals in the city point to a new, delocalized, even evaporated kind of urbanism, one in which the urban and the rural interpenetrate each other. This haunting chips lend us so serves to point us away from the cramping idea of location, of the factitious and reactionary notion of the here-and-now that hovers around every notion of the soundscape, and to adumbrate a newer, more conjugated, and convivial auditorium of the world.

tant self-enclosure of human sound. Even as it points saracteristically urban spaces of the modern world, the city point to a new, delocalized, even evaporated kind and the rural interpenetrate each other. This haunting mping idea of location, of the factitious and reactionhovers around every notion of the soundscape, and to , and convivial auditorium of the world.

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# Songs of certain cultures are "an archive of ecological and aesthetic co-evolution" —Steven Feld

In Western Culture music production reflects the dissolution of a harmonious period

for earth's physical environment



Apple inc is the new Apple. The sounds it markets reverberate across the globe in societies which were once vastly different, but are now increasingly the same.

However, the feeling one gets is not of bearing witness to a transcendent synchronization, but the erasure of personally and communally unique and potent sonic cultures.

Our sounds of communication are stemming not from our connection to each other or our home, but from out interconnection to corporate entities. in cultu

Iture mu sical er

new App ch were c eling one of perso communi erconnec



the latest beheading by fanatics in American election. For every one you see spewing out of them a difsions, indignations, opinions, as vset of interested parties and differ rying out their partial resolution.

It's clear that each object - eaates a different pattern of emoti tions, of disagreements and agi might be no continuity, no coher ions, but there is a hidden continu coherence in what we are attache gathers around itself a different vant parties. Each object triggers passionately differ and dispute. also offer new ways of achieving having to agree on much else. objects - taken as so many issues ways that map out a public spac ferent from what is usually reco label of "the political". It is this s geography that we wish to exp catalog and exhibition

### Walk to any place where people gather

Sit or walk where you can hear the sounds coming • Labelle, "Steps, Gait, and Rhythmic Journey Forms"

	Listen to the sounds playing in passing cars or on intercoms or from stores patterns come to afford patterns of embodiment and behavior through	Marin.
	the ways they are responded to as entrainment devices."7 Entrainment	th
	aids in locating features in the environment to provide security and	st
Making	safety, through an unconscious alignment, as well as enabling self-	in
	expression by which one may find place, or escape it.	ai
	Claiming an informal space within the everyday, the walker might	th
You	be said to push against "official" scripts through the force of crossing	th
	the street, or side-stepping the crosswalk for an alternative path.	ac

Make a timeline and plot the times you think you remember the sound and then connect them all to a point labeled

with today's date.

Our current sonic technologies collapse not just physical space, but also time and culture.

Sonicly, the linearity of time has lost its authority over our perception.

"earcoins", or familiar and iconic sounds, which once were specific to a time, place, and culture, now signify universal actions, transactions, and coercions. They are more than often brought to us by the art of advertisement.

The air of a school bus going 45 mph in the present

can be oversaturated with temporally fluid "exotic" and familiar beats and beeps from *smartphones* of kids who know no else, church music or 80s rock, playing on a radio operated by an older driver, recorded in and inspiring a time decades ago.

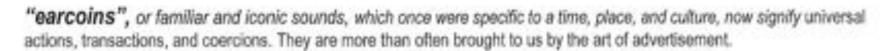
These beats from phones are not about rhythmic collaboration in communities of the past, their vibrations are significations of the present, sound a utilitarian pleasure.

Incoming pictures and texts, data, sent in the present and quickly accumulating a documented past. Hyper personal narratives develop advanced existence in media while a more sonically sensitive or ritualistic community never comes into existence.



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"Hearing is a way of touching at a distance"

Sound as Evidence

Sounds like the Mall of America: Programmed Music and the Architectonics of Commercial Space

Jonathan Sterne

"The liquidation of the individual is the new signal of the social situation" –Adorno

Sound technologies are not inherently flawed, but at present, the way we consume and are consumed by sound is.

"I want to be absolutely clear here: while the capitalist and consumerist market structure of mass mediated music contributes to a larger divide between performer and audience, with fewer performers and a larger audience, this is not necessarily a quality inherent in recording and transmission (mediation) of sound itself...we should be wary if critiques of mediation qua alienation"—Jonathan Sterne.

Do we have no better dance than synchronized shopping?

of as an answer to that absence, but it is really part of a larger experiment: what happens when we begin to think about space in industrialized societies acoustically? How is sound organized by social and cultural practice? How does it inflect that practice? These are old questions for ethnomusi-

Walk to any place where people gather for public transportation or to buy things, or to simply sit,

labeled

Sit or walk where you can hear the sounds coming from people's phones, mouths, and speakers.

Listen to the sounds playing in passing cars or on intercoms or from stores.

carry a writing utensil and paper.

Making inferences and guesses assign each sound you hear a year when it was, or may have been recorded, written, or undergone a new adaptation or interpretation.

You can assign sounds multiple dates and don't have to be super confident.

Make a timeline and plot your dates, and then connect them all to a point with today's date.



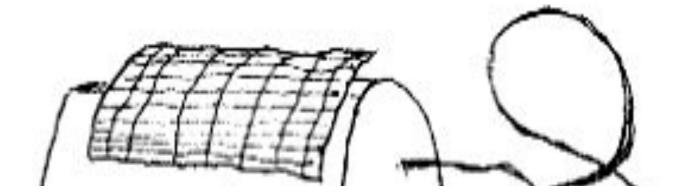


Songs of certain cultures are "an archive of ecological and aesthetic co-evolution" – Steven Feld

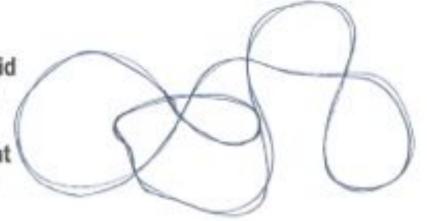
In Western Culture music, current trends of production reflects the dissolution of a harmonious period for earth's physical environment.

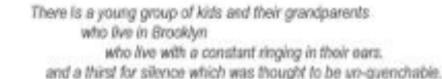
Relative to sonic cultures informed by the sounds and acoustic relationships in nature, The sounds we produce and share are in stark indifference to the well-being of our environment.

Our music is rarely mimetic of nature and instead more often samples noises of industrial action and technological advancement



"As the physical nature of noise changed, so, too, did attempts to eliminate it...a private alternative would succeed where a public approach did not...and transformed quiet from an unenforceable public right into a private commodity, available for purchase by anyone who could afford it." -Emily Thompson





They sit now on stoops waiting as the youngest runs to the Corner Store.

They pool their money together to buy a pack of blank tapes

The child runs back.

wrinkled hands unwrap the package, young hands slide the tape into a player

eyes reach out across stoops and all press play in synchronization

In Headphones and Large Speakers, The blank tapes playback against and into the noisy city

